

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Advisory Action mailed April 7, 2005. The Advisory Action of April 7, 2005, was mailed to the prior attorney of record due to the fault of the Office and no fault of the Applicant. The Advisory Action of April 7, 2005, was first transmitted to the present attorney of record by facsimile on May 16, 2005. Therefore, May 16, 2005, should be considered the effective date of issuance for the Advisory Action that was incorrectly mailed on April 7, 2005. Because the response to the previous Final Office Action was filed within two months thereof, the time period for responding to the outstanding Advisory Action extends to June 16, 2005, with a one month extension of time. The current status of the claims is summarized below.

Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 14-17, 34, and 43 are currently amended.

Claims 2-3, 12-13, 31-33, and 42 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 4-11, 14-30, 34-41, and 43-51 are pending in the application after entry of the present Amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant acknowledges the allowability of claims 21-30. Also, the Applicant acknowledges that each of claims 3-10, 13-20, 35, 37, 38, 40-43, and 47-51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims.

Please note that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claims 2 and 3. Therefore, claim 1 should be considered allowable. Also, each of claims 4-10, 35-37, and 44 which ultimately depends from claim 1 should be considered allowable.

Please note that claim 11 has been amended to incorporate claims 12 and 13. Therefore, claim 11 should be considered allowable. Also, each of claims 14-20, 38-40, and 45 which ultimately depends from claim 11 should be considered allowable.

Please note that claim 34 has been amended to incorporate claim 42. Therefore,
5 claim 34 should be considered allowable. Also, claim 43 which now depends from claim 34 should be considered allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 11-12, 34, 36, 39, and 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as
10 being unpatentable over Hamilton et al. ("Hamilton") (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,501). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 2 and 3. Because claim 3 is objected, incorporation of the features of claims 2 and 3 into claim 1 should place claim 1 in condition for allowance.

15 As discussed above, claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 12 and 13. Because claim 13 is objected, incorporation of the features of claims 12 and 13 into claim 11 should place claim 11 in condition for allowance.

As discussed above, claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 42. Because claim 42 is objected, incorporation of the features of claim 42 into
20 claim 34 should place claim 34 in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 36 and 44 ultimately depends from claim 1 and incorporates all features of claim 1. Therefore, claims 36 and 44 are patentable for at least the reasons provided for claim 1. Also, each of claims 39 and 45 ultimately depends from claim 11 and incorporates all features of claim 11. Therefore, claims 39 and 45 are patentable for at
25 least the reasons provided for claim 11.

It should be understood that the amendments made herein are made for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present case to allowance. The amendments made herein do not represent an acquiescence to the Examiner's rejections. The Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications, if so desired, to pursue further protection for the subject invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims (1, 4-11, 14-30, 34-41, and 43-51) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the present Amendment should be allowed after-final entry. The Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6914. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP572). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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